



Students with Special Needs in the Preschool Classroom



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Areas of Growth for all Preschool Children

- Language and Communication
- Self-help skills
- Social interactions, Coping skills,
and Self-regulation skills
- Safety issues
- Pre-academic skills
- Gross motor development
- Fine motor development



The Perfect Classroom?



CREATE, 2009

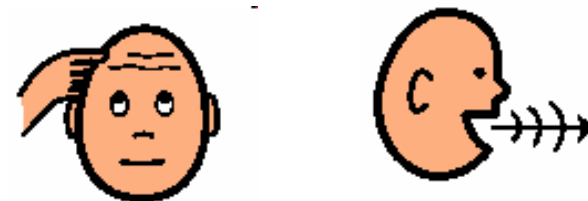
Setting up for Success

- Room to move
- Less is more
- Visual displays
- Communication opportunities
- Facilitating play
- Anticipate challenging behaviors



Make Language Visible!

You probably already create a print rich environment, adding pictures to the text for cognitive support and language development purposes.



Make a quick list of where you use text labels with symbols in your classroom.....

Picture-supported Language

Aided Language Stimulation

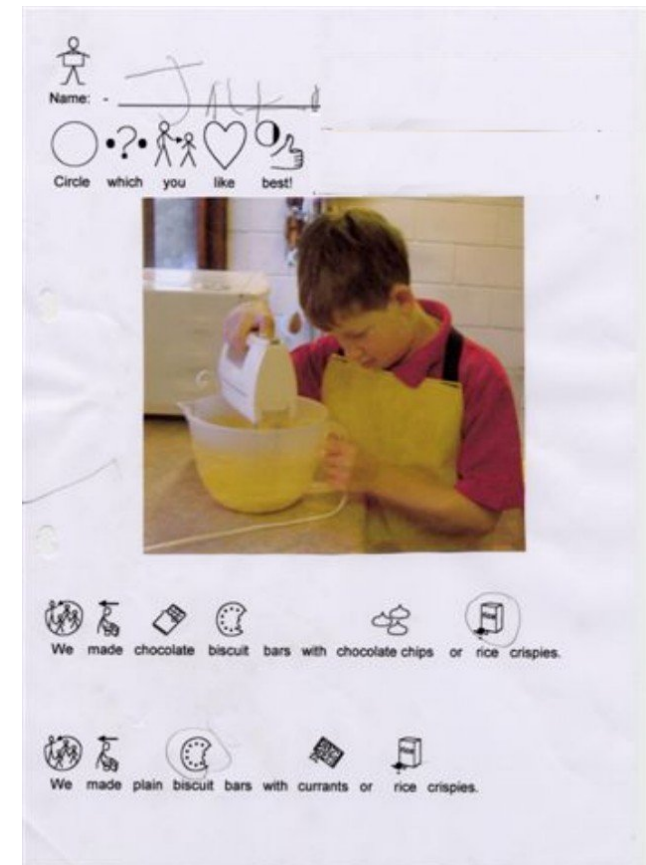
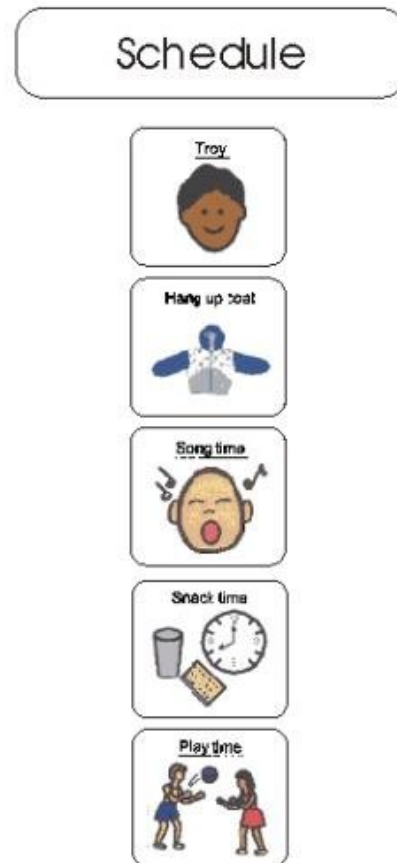
Pointing out the words as we use them

- Music – a great place to start! Help to remember the words to a song.
- Books- emphasize a repetitive line, key vocabulary with pictures or symbols

Picture-supported Language

Picture-supported text materials throughout the school day.

- Center labels
- Calendars
- Schedules
- Directions
- Recipes



Communication



Low Tech to High Tech

- Symbol, single messages embedded
- Notebooks and folders – topic specific
- Low tech voice output
- Direct selection devices
- Individual High Tech devices



Embedding Support within the Routine

- Welcoming Routine
- Morning Circle
- Transitions
- Centers
- Gross Motor Activities

Circle Time

- Photos/names of children for attendance
- ALS boards for description of weather
- Good Morning song recorded on device
- Spinner to choose helpers or who goes next for show and tell
- Review picture schedule

Hello!



Hello Song

(Tune: Frere Jacques)

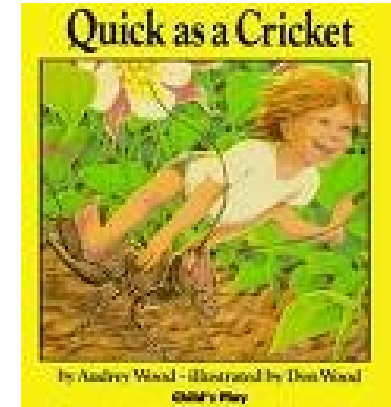
Hello _____, Hello _____

How are you? How are you?

We're so glad to have you, We're so glad to have you,
Here at school, here at school.

Literacy Units

Literacy-based units help to embed the same language throughout the day.



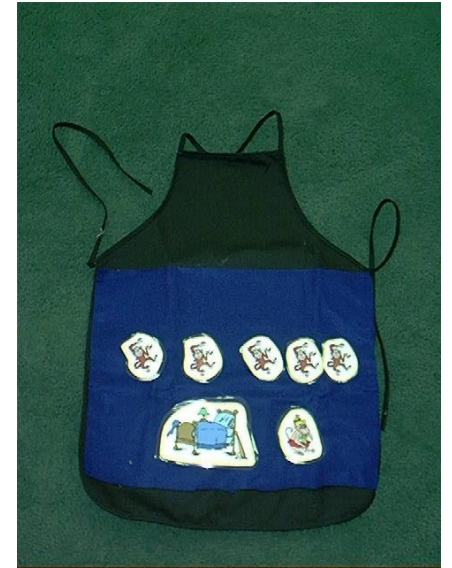
Theme: **Quick as a Cricket** (Insects)

We will do all of our learning around that theme – count bugs, color bugs, sort bugs, cook a “bug” treat, read other bug books, write about bugs, study the butterfly lifecycle, etc.

What language might we pull out of this unit to emphasize? For students with disabilities, what language from the unit will generalize.

Group Literacy Activities

- Stick puppets
- Adapted Toys and Props
- Picture Symbols, Photos, Objects
- ALS boards
- Book Holders, Easels
- Choice Boards
- Voice Output Devices for repetitive lines, sound effects, story sequence



Transitions

FIRST	THEN
PLACE VISUAL HERE	PLACE VISUAL HERE



Routine is important
Warn them about changes!

Visual and auditory cues

Use music!

Find a friend!

Centers

- Housekeeping/
Dramatic Play
- Reading/Listening
- Writing
- Manipulatives and
Games
- Blocks
- Art
- Weather/Science
- Math

Language through Play

Home Living Center



Hint: Listen to what other children say when they are playing...

Adaptations in Centers

Reading Center

- Adapted Books
 - Text adaptations, page fluffers
 - Take book apart
 - Personal books
 - Field trip books
- Computer Books – PowerPoint, MOBS, CS
- Bookworm
- Recorded Books – control tape player with switch
- Reading and Retelling the Story



Adaptations in Centers

Writing Center

- Stamps
- Plastic letters
- Adapted writing instruments
- Alternate keyboards
 - Big Keys
 - IntelliKeys
 - Kinderboard
- Software – Pixwriter, Classroom Suite, Clicker 5



Adaptations in Centers

Counting/Math Center



Mathline

Number line on floor with disabled child leading

Game with calculator

Place value game adapted

Computer based math manipulatives

Adaptations in Centers

Games and Manipulatives

- Spinner and adapted gameboard
- Card holders
- Adapted puzzles, puzzles with handles
- Large dice
- Communication Devices for asking for help and commenting on the game.



Adaptations in Centers



Block Center

- Motorized toy that knocks over blocks
- Communication device that tells what block to put on next
- Alternative blocks



Adaptations in Centers

Art Center



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Adaptations in Centers

Science Center

- Weather Chart with picture symbols
- Parts of a plant on communication device
- Adapted insect bingo
- Touch sensitive models

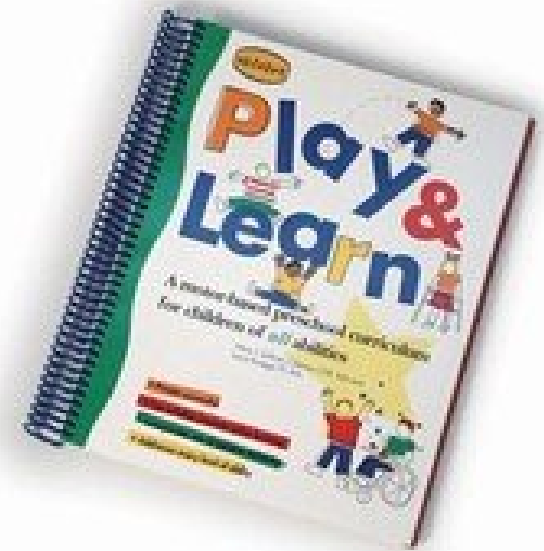
Music and Movement



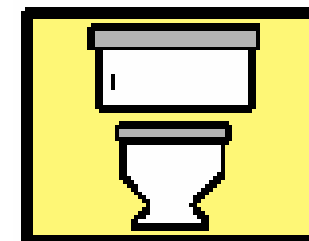
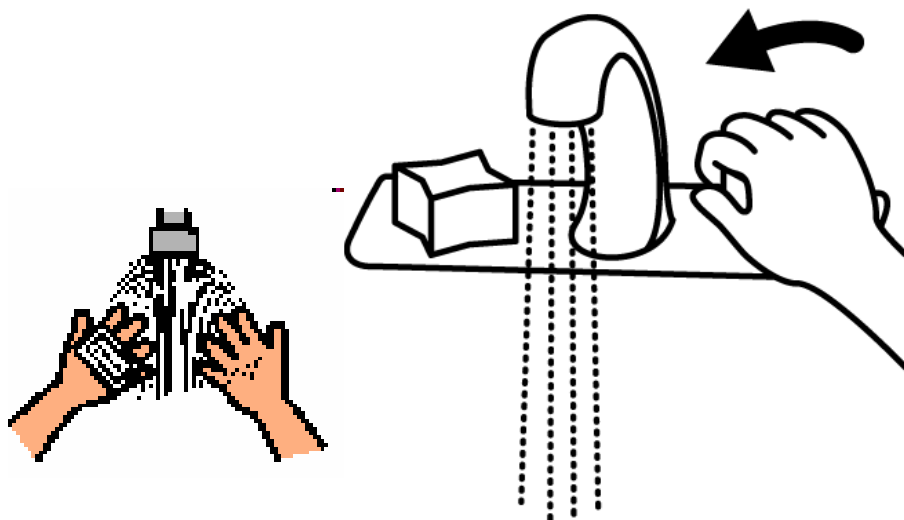
Gross Motor Activities

Play and Learn from Ablenet

Great motor-based preschool curriculum – contains all the accommodations needed to include children with disabilities in your large muscle activities.



Self-Help Skills



Using Technology

Catching Kids Up!

Leveling the playing field!

Giving them multiple repetitions!

Can move forward on pre-academic skills
while social skills develop!

Differentiate easily!

Build independence!

Reproduce your instruction!

Adapted Computer Input

Touchscreen, touch monitor

Trackball, adapted mouse

Enlarged cursors

Alternate keyboards

Keyguards

Switches



Choosing Software that works for All Young Children

UDL – works for typical students and has the features needed for children with special needs.

Edmark House Series

Classroom Suite, Suitcase Series

Early Learning

Songs I Sing at Preschool, Wheels on the Bus

Earobics

Balanced Literacy

Try it Out!



Now it is your turn. Using a book you have in your classroom, plan what kinds of activities you might have in the centers. How will you use the AT you have been given to support children with disabilities in your classroom?